Semja Update
Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association
March 2026

Happenings in March

There is a lot of activity at area clubs this month, as can be seen by a mere glance at our calendar.

The Blue LLama in Ann Arbor will feature trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg on March 5. She is a player with respect for the classics of jazz. She will be followed the next night by SEMJA board member pianist Ellen Rowe. Trumpet ace Anthony Stanco comes in on March 8 with a quintet. On March 13 pianist Pamela Wise will present "Women in Jazz." Alto saxophonist Immanuel Wilkins and his quartet grace the stage on March 14.

The next week is filled with local and visiting luminaries, beginning with Nick Collins on Sunday, March 15, followed by Lisa Sung, Randy Napoleon, Linda May Han Oh, followed by another great week. A truly packed month!

At Cliff Bells in Detroit powerful baritone saxophonist Alex Harding and Organ Nation will appear on the March 7 & 8 weekend. On March 19 pianist Pamela Wise will once again present "Women in Jazz." On March 25, Kasan Belgrave and Session continue their regular monthly Wednesday residency, followed on Thursday by pianist Orrin Evans, stopping in on his national tour. Various other performers will be at Cliff's as well.

Lynn Hobbs passes

We were very saddened to learn of the passing of Lynn Hobbs at age 86, who had led a wonderfully rich life filled with love and service, dedicated to her family and to many organizations in Ann Arbor, including SEMJA, serving as our first Secretary from the time of our founding in 1987 until 2021. She was a proud member of the informal "SEMJA Ladies" group that included Nancy Davis, Peg Craig, and Mary Ann Hayes. Almost every night they could be found at the Bird of Paradise Jazz Club on Ashley St. in Ann Arbor owned by bassist, band leader, and founder of our organization Ron Brooks, but they also played an important role in organizing various SEMJA events. Born in Indiana, Lynn got a degree in Dental Hygiene at the University of Michigan.

Lynn's musical interests went beyond jazz to opera and musical theater, and she was also known as a wizard at bridge and Scrabble. Her obituary noted she had a heart for service which was evident in her volunteer work at places such as the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, and of course, SEMJA. She was a notable cook and famous for her lemon chicken pasta with broccoli as well! As her obit also noted, "her interests were as vibrant as her personality: an avid reader and book lover, and brilliant bridge player with a sharp mind for strategy." She was a long-standing member of the Women's City Club (now the Ann Arbor City Club) and had many deep long-lasting friendships. Above all, she cherished and nurtured her family, including children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was an enthusiastic traveler, visiting many lands, including the UK, Belize, China, Mexico and South Africa, in addition to excursions throughout the US.

Her family plans to have a celebration of her life later this year. For now, they have suggested that donations in lieu of flowers be offered to the Kelsey Museum and to SEMJA. Lynn was one of a kind, and we were so fortunate to have her in our orbit for many years.

SEMJA Celebrates Lars Bjorn

Lars Bjorn receives SEMJA's 2026 Ron Brooks Award on Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m. at Ann Arbor's Kerrytown Concert House.

Concert by pianist Adam Mosley, bassist Paul Keller, guitarist Ralph Tope, drummer Jesse Kramer, and a few surprise guests.

Tickets are $30 and $40 and can be purchased from the Concert House website, *kerrytownconcerthouse.com*

Membership

Renewal

Charlie and Linda Borgsdorf
William Fitz
Ken Kozora
Leonard Sahn

The Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association

(SEMJA) was formed in 1987 for the purpose of promoting understanding and appreciation of jazz as an art form. The organization is comprised of professional musicians, jazz scholars, jazz writers, club owners, broadcasters and listeners. The organization operates through a Board and with a volunteer staff.

SEMJA is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

SEMJA online

website: *www.semja.org*
social: *facebook.com/semja.org*

Inquiries

All mail should be sent to SEMJA,
3020 Bolgos Circle,
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
For phone messages
call: 734.668.7470
email: *semja@semja.org*

Board Members

Lars Bjorn, *President*
Piotr Michalowski, *Vice-president*
Jeff Gaynor, *Secretary, Treasurer*
Barton Polot, *Webmaster and Managing Editor*
Ron Brooks, *President Emeritus*

Ira Lax
Kenji Lee
Ingrid Racine
Ellen Rowe
Sandy Schopbach
Linda Yohn

Publication

The *SEMJA Update* is published monthly and sent to members at no cost. It is edited by Lars Bjorn and Piotr Michalowski with additional assistance from Barton Polot (production editor), Margot Campos (layout), and Jeff Gaynor.

SEMJA Board Meeting

The SEMJA Board meets normally on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting on March 17 will be held online via video conferencing (Zoom). Please call Lars at 734-353-3568 if you have questions.

Update

Monthly Advertising Rates

	For-Profit Business	Non-Profit & SEMJA Members
Full Page	$100.00	$80.00
Half Page	$53.00	$42.00
Quarter Page	$35.00	$28.00
Flyer/Insert	$94.00	$75.00
Classifieds	75 cents/word	60 cents/word

There is also a 20% discount for advertisers who order ads for three (3) months or more.

To reach our target audience of Jazz fans, call 734-353-3568

Camera-ready ads must be received by the 15th day of the month preceding publication date, together with a check made payable to **SEMJA.**

Ask us about banner ads in the ***semja.org*** Web site.

SEMJA Membership Application

Mail to: SEMJA • 3020 Bolgos Circle.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

❑ New Member
❑ Renewal

Membership Levels

❑ Basic	$30
❑ Student	$20
❑ Couple	$40
❑ Patron	$60
❑ Nonprofit Corp.	$50
❑ Corporate	$250
❑ Lifetime	$500

Amount Enclosed $_____

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

❑ Check payable to **SEMJA** ❑ Credit Card |___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|___|

Exp. |___|___| / |___|___| CVV |___|___|___|

After 55 years on the air, Michael Jewett retires from WEMU

The public radio station of Eastern Michigan University, WEMU, 89.1, last year celebrated its sixtieth year on air, and for much of its existence it has focused both on news and community affairs as well as on jazz and blues.

The dedication to jazz began in 1977; five years later Michael Jewett began working there and now, 55 years later, he has announced that he is moving on to new adventures in retirement, albeit he promises to retain his association with the station that has meant so much to his adult life.

He started hosting Sunday Best, a classic jazz program, before moving to afternoon jazz programming, when his characteristic radio voice became a staple of every local jazz lover's day. He currently hosts both morning and afternoon jazz shows, followed by the award-winning Bluestime Hour, weekdays at 3 p.m. As if this were not enough, he is also the Operations Manager of the station. Over the years he has also hosted live performances in various places, including the Detroit Jazz Festival and at Ann Arbor's Blue LLama Jazz Club.

Jewett's long-time service ends a specific era of jazz broadcasting in Southeastern Michigan, dominated by his voice as well as those of already retired Linda Yohn and the late Michael G. Nastos at WEMU, together with several others, all with encyclopedic musical knowledge, strong opinions, and unique radio voices. For many of us, these voices became part of our lives, and we will miss Michael's wonderful broadcasting presence and will always be grateful for what he gave us, but we wish him all the best in his new-found freedom. WEMU will be different but will remain strong, with jazz people such as Jessica Webster and the blues spun by Joe Tiboni, not to mention others covering a variety of roots music forms. Times are hard for public radio, so please support your favorite station!

WEMU 89.1

The Choice for NPR... news, jazz and blues.

Schedule

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
5							
6						PUBJAZZ	PUBJAZZ
7		MORNING EDITION NPR news, information, and public affairs Local news, traffic and weather with David Fair					REVEAL
8						WEEKEND EDITION Scott Simon	WEEKEND EDITION Rachel Martin
9							
10		89.1 JAZZ MORNING Hosted by Michael Jewett				THIS AMERICAN LIFE	SUNDAY BEST Nik Thompson
11						WAIT, WAIT... DON'T TELL ME!	
12		PUBJAZZ				TRAVEL Rick Steves	
1						FROM MEMPHIS TO MOTOWN Wendy Wright	GROOVEYARD Daniel W. Long
2		89.1 JAZZ AFTERNOON Hosted by Michael Jewett					
3							THE IN CROWD Jessica Webster
4		ALL THINGS CONSIDERED NPR news, information & public affairs				ROOTS MUSIC PROJECT Jeremy Baldwin	
5							BIG CITY BLUES CRUISE Joe Tiboni
6							
7		PUBJAZZ			REVEAL	CUBAN FANTASY Marc Taras	MOUNTAIN STAGE Larry Groce
8					ALL SONGS CONSIDERED		
9					ALT.LATINO		JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA
10					MOUNTAIN STAGE Larry Groce		
11							
12							
1							
2							
3							
4							

National Public Radio
Eastern Michigan University

jazz events
March

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

ATTENTION all venue owners, musicians, and listeners
Please let us know about upcoming jazz events in the area!

- Write us at SEMJA
  3020 Bolgos Circle
  Ann Arbor MI 48105
- Phone us at 734-668-7470
- Submit information online at *www.semja.org/submit*

We will include notices if they reach us by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Aretha's Jazz Café at Music Hall

jazzcafedetroit.com
350 Madison
DETROIT 313-887-8500

MARCH

2	7:30	Sky Covington and Joy Young
9	7:30	Veronique Musique

ONGOING

Sun	7:00	Aretha's Jazz Jam

Baker's Keyboard Lounge

theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com
20510 Livernois
DETROIT 313-345-6300

ONGOING

Fri	7:00	Ralphe Armstrong Trio – with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams
Sat	7:00	Ralphe Armstrong Trio – with Gerard Gibbs, Brandon Williams

Blue LLama Jazz Club

bluellamaclub.com
314 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR 734-372-3200

MARCH

1	6:00 7:00	One Single Rose
4	6:00 7:30	Alex Anest Trio
5	7:00	Bria Skonberg
6	5:00	WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series: Ellen Rowe
6	7:00 9:00	Don Hicks & Friends
7	7:00 9:00	Tatiana Eva-Marie
8	6:00 7:30	Anthony Stanco
11	7:00 8:30	Mercer Patterson Quintet
12	7:00 8:30	New Nostalgia
13	7:00 9:00	Women in Jazz: Pamela Wise
14	7:00 9:00	Immanuel Wilkins
15	6:00 7:30	Nick Collins Trio
18	7:00 8:30	Lisa Sung Quartet
19	7:00 8:30	Randy Napoleon
20	7:00 9:00	Linda May Han Oh
21	7:00 9:00	Laura Simone Quintet
22	6:00 7:30	Sunny Wilkinson Trio
25	7:00 8:30	Gwenyth Hayes Trio
27	7:00 9:00	Sean Dobbins Organ Trio – featuring Dana Badcock
28	7:00 9:00	Joan Belgrave
29	6:00 7:30	Paul Vornhagen Quartet

Cadieux Café

cadieuxcafe.com
4300 Cadieux Rd.
DETROIT 313-882-8560

ONGOING

Thu	8:00	Bill Meyer Group – with Ibrahim Jones, Butter Hawkins

Damon Terrell

Cliff Bells

cliffbells.com
2030 Park Ave at West Adams
DETROIT 313-961-2543

MARCH

1	5:30 7:30	Planet D Nonet
4	7:00	Swing Syndicate Jazz Lab
5	7:30 9:30	Detroit Riddim Crew
6	7:30 9:30	Monique Ella Rose
7	7:30 9:30	Alex Harding & Organ Nation
8	5:30 7:30	Alex Harding & Organ Nation
12, 13	7:30 9:30	Damon Terrell
14	7:30 9:30	Smoke Jones
15	5:30 7:30	Smoke Jones
19	7:30 9:30	Pamela Wise presents Women In Jazz
20, 21	7:30 9:30	Echoes of the Fallen

ONGOING

Wed	7:30 9:30	Session

Dirty Dog Jazz Café

dirtydogjazz.com
97 Kercheval
GROSSE PTE. FARMS 313-882-5299

MARCH

5	6:00	Zen Zadravec
6, 7	6:30	Zen Zadravec
12	6:00	Houston Patton
13, 14	6:30	Houston Patton
19	6:00	Blou Reed
20, 21	6:30	Blou Reed
26	6:00	Dave Bennett
27, 28	6:30	Dave Bennett

ONGOING

Wed	6:30	Michael Zaporski

Zen Zadravec

The Earle

theearle.com
121 West Washington St.
ANN ARBOR 734-994-0211

ONGOING

Tue	7:00	Jake Reichbart
Wed	7:00	Jake Reichbart
Thu	7:00	Jake Reichbart
Fri	7:00	Jazz Trio
Sat	7:00	Jazz Trio

Elks Lodge #325

110 West Ann Arbor Trail
PLYMOUTH

ONGOING

Sat	6:00	Open Jam Session – with Pete Siers, Kenji Lee, Andy Peck, Max Bowen

Imaginate Restaurant

imaginaterestaurant.com
401 South Lafayette Ave.
ROYAL OAK 248-633-8899

ONGOING

Wed	6:30	Eat It Up Trio

Johnny's Royal Oak

johnnysroyaloak.com
215 South Main St.
ROYAL OAK 248-794-1261

MARCH

1	6:30	Sheila Landis and Rick Matle

Kerrytown Concert House

kerrytownconcerthouse.com
415 North Fourth Ave.
ANN ARBOR 734-769-2999

MARCH

1	**4:00**	**SEMJA Celebrates Lars Bjorn**
15	2:00	Ellen Rowe's All About the Trio: The Genius of Dave Brubeck
21	4:00	Lisa Sung Ensemble
27	7:30	Olivia Van Goor

London Chop House

155 West Congress St.
DETROIT

ONGOING

Thu	7:30	Paul Keller, Paul King, Ralph Tope, Adam Mosley

Lucille's Jazz Lounge

lucillesjazzlounge.com
1447 North Summit St., Suite C
TOLEDO, OH

MARCH

6	8:00	River and Rail
7	8:00	Alexander Zonjic
13	8:00	Paul Keller Trio – with Adam Mosley & Ralph Tope
20	8:00	The Good, the Bad, and the Blues
21	8:00	Nathan Paul Sound Medicine Quartet
27	8:00	Michael Malis
28	8:00	Third Coast Swing

MacKenzie Hall

windsorjazzconcertseries.com
3277 Sandwich St.
WINDSOR ONT 519-974-7754

MARCH

1	2:30	Coffee House Combo

Schoolcraft College

schoolcraft.edu/music
Vistatech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd
LINOVIA 734-462-4403

MARCH

4	Noon	Lisa Sung

Shield's

25101 Telegraph Rd.
SOUTHFIELD

MARCH

7	1:00	Cakewalkin' Jass Band – with special guest Nicole Heitger
21	1:00	Barbara Ware – with pianist Cliff Monear: "Lost Verses"

Venue by 4M

experience4m.com
1919 South Industrial Hwy.
ANN ARBOR 734-800-0128

ONGOING

Sun	11 am	Jazz Sunday Brunch
Sat	7:00	Saturday Night Jazz

Weber's Habitat Lounge

thehabitatannarbor.com
3050 Jackson Rd.
ANN ARBOR 734-665-3636

ONGOING

Mon	6:00	Keaton Royer, Josef Deas
Tue	6:00	Keaton Royer, Josef Deas
Wed	6:00	Keaton Royer, Josef Deas
Thu	6:00	Keaton Royer, Josef Deas
Sun	5:00	William Marshall Bennett

Zal Gaz Grotto

zalgaz.org
2070 West Stadium Blvd.
ANN ARBOR 734-663-1202

ONGOING

Sun	5:00	Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings
Mon	7:00	Paul Keller Orchestra
Tue	5:30	Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band

Upcoming Jazz Events

APRIL

1	Kongruent • Schoolcraft College, Livonia
2	Ari and Cecil Alexander Quartet • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
3	Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
3	Rodney Whitaker Group • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
3	Nicole Heitger • Lucille's, Toledo OH
4	Mark Loduca and The "C" Notes • Shield's, Southfield
4	Paxton/Spangler Band • Lucille's, Toledo OH
5	The Triumvirate • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
8	Aya Sekine Trio • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
9	REDWOOD • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
9	April Varner Sextet • Lucille's, Toledo OH
10	Kerrytown Stompers • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
10	Wendell Harrison Pharaoh Sanders Tribute • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
10	Paul Keller Quartet • Lucille's, Toledo OH
11	Demetrius Nabors • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
11	Tumbao Bravo • Lucille's, Toledo OH
12	Larry Fuller Trio • Kerrytown Concert House
15	Jonathan Barahal Taylor Quartet • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
17	Tiffany Gridiron Quintet • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
17	The Four of Us • Lucille's, Toledo OH
18	Houston Patton • Lucille's, Toledo OH
19	Ellen Rowe's All About the Trio: The Evolution of the Standard • Kerrytown Concert House
19	Sarah D'Angelo & Cliff Monear • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
21	Mr. B's Annual Blues and Boogie Celebration • Shield's, Southfield
22	Aguankó • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
23	Sean Dobbins: Tribute to Stevie Wonder • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
24	Kris Johnson • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
25, 26	Straight Ahead • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
29	Detroit Jazz Project • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor
30	Rick Roe Trio • Blue LLama, Ann Arbor

3020 Bolgos Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 240
Ann Arbor, MI

INSIDE

Lynn Hobbs
Michael Jewett
SEMJA Celebrates Lars Bjorn